

February 15, 2021

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I write to you today with a heart that is heavy. Everywhere I look I see the right of people to be treated equally taken away. I see discrimination, polarization, inaccurate reporting, name calling and more. I am saddened that as a state of citizens we are not being treated equally or with the freedoms that are rightfully ours. I have made myself aware of and familiar with the proposed HB 6423 which aims to remove the religious exemption for vaccines from children in daycares all the way through to college. I feel this is an overreach of the government and that it will just add to the polarization, separation and discrimination against people who have differing views due to their deeply held religious beliefs.

All my life I have held fast to my faith, clinging to what I know is right, good, and just; even when it is unpopular. I will not falter in my commitment to my God and I fully believe that vaccinations, as well as the process by which they are made and tested are directly in opposition to my faith. Dr. Stanley Plotkin, known as the "Godfather of vaccines," in a disposition on January 11, 2018, admitted to using the tissue from 76 aborted fetuses for ONE study, all of which were three months or older and normally developed. He also admitted to using orphans to study experimental vaccines as well as mentally handicapped individuals and the babies of mothers in prison. I am happy to send you the 403 page disposition to refer to. I ask you, do you value all human life? Do you believe that people should be treated with respect and dignity? That people have innate value? Were you to put yourself in the shoes of these individuals, would you find this practice to be one that proves that lives are worth something? I was raised to

believe that all people, whether we agree with them or not, whether they can do something for us or not, whether they are young or old, dying or vibrant with life deserve to be treated with respect and dignity and that their life is sacred. I cannot and will not ever consent to supporting an industry that has built its legacy on the backs of the most fragile of citizens.

I am a mother to two beautiful, healthy, vibrant children; both of whom attend a private Christian school where they are loved, accepted, supported and educated. I am also expecting my third child, whom if this bill were to pass would never be able to attend school and experience the blessing of a community like that. Additionally, my children that are currently in school would have to leave their school that has been founded on religious beliefs because of this overstep of the government. I would then be forced to leave my job in the Connecticut public school system and homeschool my children. This would put significant financial burden on my hardworking husband. Your actions, if they push this bill forward, would have devastating effects on not only my family but the families of many. Not only would this be heartbreaking for my children to leave their friends in a place where their beliefs should be accepted without question, it would also undoubtedly create unnecessary stress and anxiety for our family and many others.

More than once my family has been hugely and negatively impacted and discriminated against because of our belief system. First, we were denied the ability to foster children, due to our religious exemption; a devastating blow to all of us. Then, my husband was unable to attend the college program he worked incredibly hard to get into because they couldn't guarantee him that he'd be able to do his clinical rotations without receiving multiple vaccines, all of which we

do not agree with. For our family, two defining times in our lives were those stated above. The governmental overreach concerning vaccination has caused a loss of a desperately needed foster family and the loss of a career.

As our elected officials, you have promised to represent the citizens and constituents of Connecticut, all of us. Our government is to be “by the people, and for the people.” You cannot choose to put the beliefs of some above the beliefs of others. The driving force behind every decision you make should be the reverence for every citizen’s unalienable rights. I challenge you to question the status quo, and ask yourself if you were in the position thousands of parents and families are in with the proposal of this bill, would you be hoping your officials would go with the crowd or be bold and stand up for what is truly right; even when it is unpopular.

I’d like to share a quote with you: “First we overlook evil. Then we permit evil. Then we legalize evil. Then we celebrate evil. Then we persecute those who still call it evil.” Fr.Dwight Longenecker. I ask you to stand up for the rights of those whose belief system tells them that it is wrong to use human beings in a disposable manner in the name of the ‘greater good’. I ask you to oppose HB 6423 and instead choose to uphold the rights of every citizen of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Jessica B.

Torrington, CT